14. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the mutation at position 130 is from glycine to aspartic acid.

15. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the mutation at position 131 is from threonine to asparagine.

16. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the mutation at position 133 is from methionine to threonine.

17. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the mutation at position 145 is from glycine to arginine.

18. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the mutations at positions 130 and 145 are from glycine to aspartic acid at position 130, and from glycine to arginine at position 145.

19. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the mutations at positions 130 and 133 are from glycine to aspartic acid at position 130, and from methionine to threonine at position 133.

20. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the mutations at positions 131 and 145 are from threonine to asparagine at position 131, and from glycine to arginine at position 145.

21. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the mutations at positions 130 and 145 are from methionine to threonine at position 133, and from glycine to arginine at position 145.

22. (Previously presented) A method for evaluating whether a sample contains HBV that may have escaped immunological detection, said method comprising the steps of:

i) mixing the sample with a set of first and second primers having SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 2, respectively;

ii) performing PCR on the mixture generated in step i) to generate an amplified primer extension product;

iii) determining whether the amplified product comprises nucleic acid encoding major HBV surface antigen (SHBsAg) having a mutation at amino acid position 130, 131, 133 or 145, or having mutations at amino acid positions 130 and 145, 130 and 133, 131 and 145, or 133 and 145; and

iv) identifying said mutation indicating that the sample contains HBV that may have escaped immunological detection.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 22 wherein the mutation at position 130 is from glycine to aspartic acid.

25. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 22 wherein the mutation at position 131 is from threonine to asparagine.

26. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 22 wherein the mutation at position 133 is from methionine to threonine.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 22 wherein the mutation at position 145 is from glycine to arginine.

28. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 22 wherein the mutations at positions 130 and 145 are from glycine to aspartic acid at position 130, and from glycine to arginine at position 145.

29. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 22 wherein the mutations at positions 130 and 133 are from glycine to aspartic acid at position 130, and from methionine to threonine at position 133.

30. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 22 wherein the mutations at positions 131 and 145 are from threonine to asparagine at position 131, and from glycine to arginine at position 145.

31. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 22 wherein the mutations at positions 130 and 145 are from methionine to threonine at position 133, and from glycine to arginine at position 145.

32. (Previously presented) A method for evaluating whether a sample contains HBV that may be resistant to anti-HBV drug treatment, said method comprising the steps of:

i) contacting the sample with a set of first and second primers having SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 2, respectively;

ii) performing PCR on the mixture generated in step i) to generate an amplified primer extension product; and

iii) determining whether the amplified product comprises nucleic acid encoding major HBV surface antigen (SHBsAg) having a mutation at amino acid position 130, identification of said mutation indicating that the sample contains HBV that may be resistant to anti-HBV drug treatment.

33 (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 32 wherein the anti-HBV drug is lamivudine.

34. (Canceled).

35. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 32 wherein the mutation at position 130 is from glycine to aspartic acid.

36-42. (Canceled)